

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MEETING  
AND GREEN TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, November 25, 2014 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

Members present: John Lippert, John Berard, Kehinde Odebo, Kim Knox, Michael Hartman, Eva Fallon, Matt Dirksen. Green Team: Susan Barnett.

Excused absences: Jeannie Iacovazzi, Steve Skolnik, Maggie Cahalan.

Absences: Konrad Herling. Staff liaison: Luisa Robles.

Visitors: Kathleen and Brianna Shaw, Josh Hamlin, Erin Josephitis, Bill Orleans

**Green Team and Green ACES Meeting**

Call to order: 7:35 pm

1. Given that the next meeting would fall on December 23 the group decided to not hold that meeting. Options were given to have it the week before, but the group chose to skip it.
2. Letter asking the City of Greenbelt to request Prince George's County to adopt a policy that allows homeowners to volunteer 8 hours to get a reduction of \$10 off of the consumption charges of their stormwater fees. Kim Knox wrote a letter and John Lippert reviewed it. This is a program that Baltimore City has implemented last year.
3. Organics Land Care sub-group update. How was the event on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Three Sister's Garden? Maggie Cahalan, Kim Knox, Jeannie Iacovazzi and Erin Josephitis participated, also Brian Townsend and more. The event went really well.
4. Stream sub-group update. Kim Knox – share the volunteer activities she has been leading, ongoing. SMC - Natural Resources – Watershed Stewardship – Provide Voluntary Opportunities for Citizen Engagement in Watershed Stewardship.
5. Watershed ideas from Jonathan Berard. He presented a power point with pictures of ideas for stenciling storm drains. Some of them were very artistic. Also see attached document.
6. Erin Josephitis – Composting at the Community Center Three Sisters Gardens – Senior program. Composting workshop open to all in the Spring – Possible date: on a Friday after the senior lunch.
7. Freed slave cemetery on Cherrywood Lane. Where exactly is this? Remember to keep Jessica Bellah in the loop since she has experience in this.
8. Solar domestic water heating systems – GHI is considering a new policy, could easily be expanded to the City if Green ACES/Green Team wants to take this on. John and Steve have met about this.
9. Electric vehicles (EV) in Greenbelt – GHI is considering a new policy concerning members who want to install charging stations, waiting for City action on the resident that has applied to install a station at his home; also update on GHI purchasing our first EV.

Announcements: Our City Council, through our City Manager, corresponded with County Council Member Ingrid Turner re: support of streetscaping Rte 193.

Adjournment: 9:03 pm

Attachment:

Watershed ideas from Jonathan Berard with responses.

- Storm drain stenciling: a good way to involve students or children's groups. We could fold in some sort of watershed education. It's also a good opportunity to fold in trash/litter issues given the Anacostia TMDL for trash coming down the pike. I have a lot of resources available for a program like this.

This sounds great and is something we have not done before, to my knowledge.

- Rain barrel workshops: for a small fee, residents can build their own rain barrel and take it home. Might be tough because GHI only allows certain rain barrel vendors to be installed - perhaps we can work with them to broaden the manufacturers they allow to include something residents can assemble themselves. I think that there are grants available from Chesapeake Bay Trusts to subsidize some of the cost.

We had a rain barrel workshop last spring – it was a full day event with speakers, demonstrations, installations etc.

Followed by a day at the Farmers Market where we further promoted rain barrels. This Sunday, November 23 we will be at the Farmer's Market again. Do you want to come help us talk to customers about this topic?

We can also plan another workshop for the near future. Although I think this spring we will have one on composting (we had a composting day long workshop 2 years ago, so perhaps we can alternate workshops every other year).

- Work with large housing developments like Franklin Park to assess opportunities for stormwater mitigation and infiltration projects. These could reduce the stormwater utility fee assessments and prevent runoff into Indian Creek. This could be coupled with the complete streets projects on Cherry Hill Road.

This is a very tall order. Just to get Franklin Park to recycle has been trying and not wholly successful. I don't think it would be within the purview of our group to pursue this, but we can give it a try and see what the others think.

- Build some demonstration BMPs in Roosevelt Center. There are several concrete culverts around the city center that could be removed and turned into rain gardens or bioswales, and lots of impervious surface that could be replaced with pervious material. The city could include signage to engage residents and visitors and explain what the fixtures are and what they do.

WE already have cisterns and a rain garden at the Youth Center. Perhaps we can make that more of a demonstration area. We need signage. That is expensive. There are more things that can be done at Roosevelt center too. I think Club 125 wants to have a rain barrel on one of their downspouts. This is something we can also talk about with the group.

- Address the long concrete channel that runs between the step pool project near Green Hill Road and Greenbelt Lake. This could be replaced with a large infiltration BMP (bioswale, perhaps?) which would reduce the amount of stormwater that runs into the lake and would also make that green space corridor a bit more welcoming.

Yeap, this would be a great project. We would need to coordinate with Planning. Other people have looked into this before. Perhaps we can have Jessica or Terri come to our group to share their thoughts on this and to see if perhaps they have something like that in the back of their minds.

- Examine making all municipal buildings have a net zero contribution to polluted runoff. Look at options for downspout disconnection, rain barrel installation, or other green infrastructure projects.

We can certainly start looking into this as well. Perhaps you can establish a "downspout" group to start inventorying all the places where rain barrels or something similar could go. Do you know GIS? We could also map all the rain gardens we already have to see where we might benefit from more.

- Work with the stream committee to identify candidate areas for bank stabilization/riparian buffer projects. This could be a good opportunity to engage citizen groups in conservation activities like tree planting. The streams in the forest preserve might be good initial candidates as those streams have been severely eroded and are in dire need of some sort of restoration. These types of projects will reduce the amount of sediment that that eventually makes its way into the Anacostia.

The stream team is already doing this. You might want to join that team. Also, the Forest preserve would not be the best first option. There is A LOT of debate as to how much management should be done there. And for now, the FPAB does not want ANY management of the preserve at all.